

RG-50.120*102

MAZIA FEDKA

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01:25:00 My name is Mazia Fedka, Oksendheler. I was born in Sosnovitz(?) in upper Shlezia. We were one of the first families in the town. German industrialists founded Sosnovitz in the late 18th century. During the 1920-1930, 25.000 Jews lived there. We had a Jewish Gymnasium, a very active Zionist organization and all kind of youth movements from the right and from the left.

04:11:00 My family was a Bourgeois, Polish and Zionist. My mother was active in "WIZO", and my father in the Zionist Organization. I went to the Zionist youth movement. Its head was Yuz'ak Kojuch(?)

07:20:00 When I was 15, I went with my mom to Zakopane for the winter vacation. I learned in a Polish high school. We were only four Jewish girls in this school, because I wanted to prove that the Jewish minority had the same rights as the other people. We were treated well in school. During the war I got a lot of help from my Polish friends from the school.

12:38:00 I was in charge of the library in our "Ken" (youth organization). Yuz'ak and I developed a romantic relationship that ended in our marriage years later.

15:40:00 My father had a factory in Germany. When the Nazis came to power he had to do other things. I remember when the war started on Friday 9.1.1939; the Polish policemen came to our house and arrested my father, because he had German citizenship. When the Germans took over Poland, my mother bribed a Nazi officer, and came back home.

17:46:00 There was big panic in our area that was close to the German border. People were looking for ways to escape to the East. Most of the population, not only Jews, was on the streets and on the roads, trying to run away. Germans planes bombed the area.

21:20:00 My mother, I and my sister, together with my aunt and uncle and their two children, took a car and drove till we ran out of gas. I stayed with my mother; we lost the other part of the family. We reached a village and found a Jewish family. We stayed in their home with other Jews, until the Germans entered the house. A young child in his mother's arms was crying. A German soldier hit him on his head. The child didn't cry any more. He was dead. This is my first picture, my first memory from the war.

26:50:00 We decided to go back home to meet our family members. On the way back we saw all the destruction that the Germans did. All the houses, the fields and the animals were burned. We arrived to the town on the evening of Rosh Hashanah. We went to my aunt house. They were there and the table was set for the Chag (holiday). It was a big excitement.

31:05:00 The Germans assembled the Jews in the courtyard of the city hall. They asked who is the head of the community. It was there when the Judenrhat(?) had begun. Leizerovitz(?) was the head of the community, but he didn't dare to step forward. Munik Meyren(?) was a man who looked for honor. He always wanted to be a leader. He liked to drink, to play cards and women. He stepped forward. He got some hits and was asked to call all the barbers to shave the men.

35:50:00 We had to get a document with the "Jude" on top of it. We got tickets for getting food and we had to wear a white band with David Star on our arm.

40:18:00 Meyren had started to organize the community. The Germans took our apartments and houses. They took the men away, so we stayed mostly women with children. We were poor and we needed help. First we established the department for social help. I worked there for a while. Then we established the justice department and the supplies department, the work department the administrative department and the post. In fact we had our own autonomous institutions.

49:22:00 We established a Jewish hospital for the Jews, the poor and the Orthodox people, since we could not get treatment by non-Jewish doctors. I was 17 years old. Dr. Liberman invited me to help him in the hospital.

54:04:00 Yuz'ak was one of the helpers of Meyren in the Judenrhat. They got an order to send 300 Jews. It was the first time I saw Yuz'ak in despair. He always was the first one to volunteer to do anything that was needed, and now he have to decide whom to send and he didn't have any control!

57:40:00 Dr. Liberman taught us how to work in the hospital, since we didn't have any knowledge or experience. We had a professional midwife, a student of medicine, a cook and a woman who made the laundry.

01:01:50 I remember the first operation in the hospital. Dr. Liberman was a pediatric. He got a special permit to invite a Polish surgeon to come to operate. I felt like a professional nurse.

01:06:30 We got all the supplies we needed from the community through the Organization we had in the Judenraht.

01:08:50 We also got permission for a Polish doctor to work in our hospital. He was a very professional surgeon, whom we admired. Twenty years ago, I went to Poland to look for him. I found him in a small clinic. I asked him: "Dr. Stock, how come you are working in this place? I was sure you would be by now a very respected doctor in a hospital". He answered: "for that I would need to become a member of the Communist Party, which I do not want."

01:11:20 More than 200 patients were in the hospital. We had two patients in most beds. We worked 12 hours in each shift.

01:15:00 At the end of my shift in the hospital we gathered with our friends from the youth movement. We got letters from friends who moved to the East. They told us to cross the border and to come to Vilna, where they had free life and from there they could go to Palestine.

01:18:00 We had discussions about it and we didn't know what to do. We dreamed that we all go to Russia and establish a Kibbutz there and then go to Israel.

Yuz'ak didn't talk. Then he said that he can understand anybody who will decided to go, but we are an educational and pioneering movement, we can't leave the people behind us and to run away. Only one from our group left.

01:22:30 We started with our educational and cultural programs. We asked ourselves how and what we want to do with the youngest? How can you tell them to lie to the Germans while you want them to be honest people? How can you tell them to be proud, while they have to step off the sidewalk when they see a German soldier?

01:28:30 My duty was to translate the Zionist history from German to Polish. We published a newspaper and had a school for the children.

01:32:30 One of the teachers was Dr. Steinberg. He taught us Greek Drama. The cultural activities gave us a window to the normal world. It was like calories, our spiritual food.

01:36:00 We took care of the orphans. After the Germans closed the orphanage and distributed the kids to the camps, we sent them parcels and tried to keep contact with them. Our activities, our contact one with another, the mutual help, all helped us a lot.

01:42:00 The Germans allowed us to make an ice rink on the football yard. There we had a wonderful place to gather and to enjoy being together.

01:45:10 I want to tell some history of the Zionist Youth Movement. It was established as combination of several youth movements. Then it was split into two groups: Zionist Youth Movement A and B. We were B. We didn't have any contact with group A or with our leaders that were in Levov in Russia. Dror and Hashomer-Hatzayir were socialists. We weren't. We thought that our duty is to care for all Jews. In such a terrible period we should unite with all the other youth movements to save and to help any Jew, no matter what political group he belongs to.

01:52:00 Eliezer Geller was the representative of the leadership of Gordonia. I met him at my aunt house. He was traveling between Jewish communities and shared information with them.

01:54:30 There is a legend about Mordechai Anilevitch, that he brought the message of the rebellion to different Jewish communities. I am talking about summer 1942. We built an underground organization and searched any way to act. Mordechai came to meet Meyren, to get permission to travel in Europe to tell the truth of what was happening to the Jews. Yuz'ak organized the meeting between them and told Mordechai to be cautious with Meyren. Karla was in the meeting and she has to tell what happened there. All the rest is stories that Hshomer Hatzayir spread.

01:58:20 Now I'm asking myself why we were so naïve? Wanted to fix the world that was destroyed.
Yuz'ak worked in the Judenrhat as long as he felt he could contribute to the public. It was the only place where we could control our Jewish life.

02:00:20 It might sound absurd but in 1940-1941 we had happy life with a great felling of giving.
We lived in an area, which was under the Germans law, but in Tchenstochov(?) in Poland they had other laws. I cross the border and went there to visit our friends from the movement and my aunt. They all were in deep depression. We asked them to move to live with us, but they refused.

02:03:30 We didn't have any contact with the representatives of our movement neither in Europe nor in Palestine. Moshe Kol was the representative. We were totally isolated.

02:08:15 The Germans ordered the Jundenrhat to provide people to work in working camps in German. Meyren asked the youth to volunteer to go. We had doubts. We thought that you don't volunteer to go to a closed camp. Dror sent some people; it cost a lot of money to bring them back. The information from the camps came to us very quickly. By now we knew we had to defend everyone, especially our friends.

02:11:55 Later, I asked my self what was the difference between Meyren and us: he wanted to save some Jews and so did we try to save our friends.

02:13:00 Nearby was a transition camp: Dulag(?). We wanted to save some of our friends. We learned that it is easy to bribe Novak who was the

head of the camp. We helped some people to pretend that they are sick, either by giving them injection that developed high fever, or by putting on them plaster on the arm or leg as if they broke them, providing them matching x-ray records from our hospital. We succeeded to rescue a lot of the youngest. It gave them strength that they were not alone.

02:17:18 Meyren decided that from now on he would get from the German the number of people who needed to be sent, and he will have his people from the “Militia” bring them for the transport. Max Bjesky said: “I don’t sell Jews”, and left his position as the head of the workers department. When Max arrived to Auschwitz, he through himself on the electric fence saying, “you will not kill me, I would die by myself”.

02:20:00 Most of our friends left the “Militia”. Meyren tried to keep good relations with us in order to get sympathy from the public.

02:22:30 The transports to the camps increased. People looked for places to hide.

I remember a conversation I had with my group that I guided, after we heard that the Italians bombed Tel-Aviv. We thought we are in the same front. In Palestine they never thought like us.

The Germans gave the Jews some land to grow vegetables out of the city. It was a place of gathering. It was similar to the Farma in Benjin(?).

02:27:00 The Jews in German territories were allowed to open professional courses. Yuz’ak was the head of this organization in all the areas. Dr. Bidderman who was the principle of the Jewish gymnasium ran it in Sosnovitz.

02:29:40 In the winter of 1940, Aaron Mentchel came to us from Vienna. He was the representative of the Youth Aliya there. He told us about the establishment of organization to help the youth in Germany and Austria.

02:34:00 There were three transports. We tried to save people in all kind of ways. I remember once in 1941, when people were moved to a train, we saw in the train many people dressed in their best dresses. They told us that they are being moved to the East. We didn’t know where too. We thought that they would gather in new settlements in the East. We had bad feeling, but didn’t understand what was going on.

02:42:15 We had connection with my father through letters. We knew he was in Levov. When the Germans arrived there we looked for a way to bring him back home. We bribed a German officer. When my father came back he was an illegal citizen, but Meyren helped him to get a certificate. He worked as a clerk in the Jewish community.

We had ambivalent relations with Meyren. I knew I could always ask anything from him. For example, when I got married, Meyren asked me what I wanted as a present. Our friend Leon Blatt was arrested. I said I want him to be in my wedding and he was. Morally we didn't appreciate Meyren. We got married on 5.16.1943. It was Yuz'ak birthday.

02:51:00 Yuz'ak had a great sense of history. He knew that we had to keep everything documented. He asked Motke Danziger to collect every document. Before we entered to the Ghetto on January 1943 we put all the documents of this archive in metal boxes and buried them in the ground in a yard near Yuz'ak house. Karola knows where the exact place is. When I visited Poland I wanted to find our archive. I asked Gerek, the secretary of the Communist party in Katovitz, but I didn't succeeded. I THINK IT IS VERYIMPORTANT TO FIND IT.

02:55:30 As long as the Germans took people to working camps, we knew it was hard but we could manage. When they took the old people and the children we were in a big depression. Meyren started with a big propaganda: "go to the working camps". In retrospect he was right: people who were in working camps survived. He probably knew more than we did.

03:04:00 People worked in the "shops" for 12 hours a day in very bad conditions. As a nurse I was free to be near my patients.

03:07:00 people were not hungry; we had kitchens for the poor for symbolic price.

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03:08:30 In my book, I wrote some stories about the children. More than everyone, I loved Leah. We saved her; she arrived to Israel but drowned in the sea.

03:11:40 We established a counseling station for babies. I ran it.

Alf Shwartzbaum was an iron trader. He was very rich. He had a foreign passport and succeeded to cross the border and to move with his family to Switzerland. He had a key role in helping a lot of people in the area. Meyren didn't like our relationship with Alf. He asked Alf who helped us to send letters to places we couldn't be in touch with, not to do so. We found another way and used our Polish friends for that.

03:17:30 We searched for contact with the Polish underground, but it was difficult to find. There was Anti-Semitism in Poland. They are Catholics and that is what they learned in the Church, but I always got help from my Polish friends whenever I needed.

03:22:20 We had a sanitization department to keep the place clean and healthy as much as we could. We got injections for typhoid. In our baby station I work with Dr. Sofia Berenvald. She succeeded to smuggle her daughter, but not her son, so she killed him, in order to save him from the Nazis. When I visited her in Poland she showed me in her bedroom the picture of her son, and told me: "each morning and each evening I'm thinking of what I have done, what he could have become if he was alive". I worked with another woman who taught me how to pamper children, because life is so tough. She told me "we don't have to force them to eat what they do not like. Provide them with lots of love and happiness, so they will have the strength to live".

03:31:30 Untill January 1943, our Ghetto was not a real Ghetto. We were not allowed to get out of some streets, but the Polish could enter our streets.

We could sell jewelries and other things in order to get money and to buy what we needed. In the heels of my shoes I had diamonds and golden coins.

For many years I could not tell my story. Only after I started to study and saw that the historians are concentrating only on the Warschaw-Bialistok-Vilna story, I decided I should tell what happened in our place.

03:38:30 [Mazia asked to add some stories she didn't tell before.]
Most of the Jews from Katovitz moved to Sosnovitz, among them were a lot of members in our movement.

03:41:00 I told here the story of my family, I didn't tell about Yuz'ak family, the Kuzoch Family, none of who survived. The origin of his family was in Galitzia in Igo'omiya (?). Yuz'ak grandfather had a farm.

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I met his parents in Sosnovitz, where they had a big house. His father was an active Zionist, head of the "Mizrachi". His mother was a wonderful housewife and had a very good relationship with her husband and two sons. She called them Bolek and Yuz'ak. The father called them Azriel and Ben-Zion. The children learned Hebrew. Every Zionist delegation that came to visit Sosnovitz stayed in their house. I felt there, as in my home.

03:47:00 Part of my family was Communist. [She is telling about her aunt and cousin who lived in Poland and Russia and with whom she keeps in touch till now.]

03:58:30 During the transports in May-July 1942 a lot of Jews were deported. The Germans demanded additional 1000 Jews. Meyren asked all his helpers and Fanny Tcherniya who was his right hand to collect the Jews. They said that we are in front of a calamity.

04:04:00 Rostner was a German whom we could ask to help us. I went to him and asked for money to save our people. He went to the cash, didn't count the money and gave it to me.
The Germans caught him and killed him.

04:07:30 In winter 1941 the Germans changed our identification cards. From now on we had to have a photo in the card. Hipek Glitzenstien, one of our group, called me one night to show me that he succeeded to have cards that were ready to use as forged cards.

04:10:50 Before Passover 1941, we saw in the train station trains with broken families.

04:14:00 A group of people from our city were sent to an unknown place. Later we got letters from them. They were in Auschwitz. Yuz'ak told me to go there and to see how they are. My appearance was gentle with 2 blond braids. I stood on a bridge nearby, and a Polish man pulled me back. I asked him: "why are you doing this to me?". He told me: "it is not good to stand here. The smell is bad". I went back without knowing what really happened there. It was in the beginning of 1942.

04:17:55 The more accurate information about Auschwitz came one night when I was called to come to Yuz'ak. There was Dr. Liberman and a very sick man who escaped from Auschwitz. I took him to the hospital. He told us about Auschwitz. I don't remember that he told about the mass killing. We understood that it is a concentration camp. After several days he died.

04:24:20 Aaron Mentcher was a delegate from Palestine of the Youth Aliya movement in Germany. During the war he was in Vienna. He came to visit us in winter 1940. We held a big council of all the youth movements in the orphanage in Benjyn. He told us about the agricultural farms in Germany and that is how the idea to have a farm came to our mind. Karola lived in the farm, I would like very much that she would tell her story and what really happened there.

04:28:50 The big deportation was on 8.12.1942. Meyren announced that the Germans requested to count all the Jews. He asked all the people to come to the football stadium with all the members of their families, to be clean and

to wear nice cloths. We knew it was a trap. We tried to convince the people not to go, but Meryen was against us. At the end we all went there with a big disappointed. We didn't want to risk our families. We felt the danger, but we couldn't avoid it. It was a hot day in the summer. We had little water. The nurses wearing their white robes were trying to help. We had some extra robes which we gave to some people, so they could save themselves.

04:38:00 At noon the Germans arrived. They started with their selection. We were divided to 4 groups: The first one got a stamp and was released to their homes. The second needed another decision. The third was the youngest and they were sent to working camps. The fourth was old people, children and their mothers.

Yuz'ak asked me to save Yanek, because Meyren took revenge on him. I gave him a strip showing he was a sanitizing worker, and my first aid box. Hipek shouted and asked us to encourage the Jews to run away. Yuz'ak, who was rationalist, said that we would jeopardize the people's life, and it would only give us a good feeling that we did something.

04:46:00 The selection took all day long. It was starting to rain. The order was to assemble all the Jews from groups 2 and 4 in two buildings. It was a terrible picture. They were so crowded that they couldn't sit. We decided to save as many as we could. Hipek dug a hole to the neighboring building. We brought them food and water. We bribed some of the policemen and we succeeded to rescue some people.

04:52:30 Meyren and the German officer, Draier, arrived and understood that some of the people escaped. They caught us and put us to stand against the wall. Meyren asked Draier to pay his attention to something else. He thus saved us.

04:56:00 The people were moved to the train. It was hard to see them running into the train, as if they are going to a better place. From now on we had a change in our life. We asked ourselves what we should do from there on? We had two dilemmas. One: how we are going to treat the Germans. The second: how we are going to treat the Yudenrhat. We should act in different way from what we did before. There was no more benefit in our studies or other cultural activities. We should look for weapons.

05:00:00 Meyren came as the one who saved us. With all our criticism against him we needed him for everything in our daily life. We knew that the people arrived to Auschwitz, we didn't know about the gas chambers.

05:05:15 We decided to call upon all the Jews in the world to tell them what was happening and to ask for help. Meta Shweid went to Vienna to tell them the truth. She had to check if there is a way to make Aliya through the Danube. Then Leon Blutt went to look for Polish Partisans, but our area was urban area, we didn't have forests to hide in. He managed to bring three guns.

05:16:00 In Autumn 1942 I was called to Lolka. It was pouring. She told me that we established an underground. We would act by groups of three people. I didn't know what the other groups were doing. We learned how to use a gun.

05:21:15 In the winter of 1942 Lolek Rozentzweig and Chaim Tetenbrutzel came to visit us from Krakow. They came after the elimination of the Ghetto. They both knew what happened. They told us about the youth who got organized to act.

05:28:20 My parents had a Polish friend, Engineer Karamash. I went to see him and to ask him to help me to find connections to the Polish underground. He explained to me that the Germans had a plan: first to kill the Jews and then the Polish. As long they are busy with the Jews the Polish are saved, so they can't help us. He gave me a name of one Prof. In Krakow, but he didn't help. They couldn't believe that the Jews would fight.

05:32:30 Halinka Goldblum (Sister-in-law of Katzetnik) was on her way to Palestine, where her parents and her brother were. It was arranged by exchanging Germans prisoners of war with Palestine citizens. Yuz'ak asked her to tell all what she saw. It was like his will: "tell them we would try to do our best, but the time is against us. Our possibilities are very limited, but if our destiny would help to build one brick in the future Jewish land, we hope the tempo of the building process would be faster than the extermination"...
When Halinka arrived to Kushta she was asked to be silence about it.

05:38:00 In Chanukah 1942 the militant voices among us increased.

05:42:15 At the beginning of 1943 Ytzka Bayuk, Zelig sister came from Krakow. She came as a Polish gentile who went to work in Germany. She told us that Zelig sent her to tell us that there is a way to save people if we would sent them to work at Germans farms. We didn't pay much attention to it.

05:45:30 We got a message that we should move to the Ghetto. We changed homes with Polish miners.
We heard about another way of saving Jews: To get papers from South America. Nathan Shvalb sent the first documents to the Gordonya members. In 3.10.1943 the Ghetto was shut down. We were very close to Benjin Ghetto.
We opened a day care for the babies and the young children, in order to give the mothers the option to go to work. Marisha Gelbert worked with me. Each of us had a group of 15-20 children. I asked Dr. Liberman what to do if the Germans would arrive? He gave me syringes. I was lucky I didn't have to use them.

05:58:05 We got a small house: 2 small rooms and a tiny kitchen. We were 8 people. The people who were closed to Meyren got the bigger houses.

06:05:00 In April 1943 we heard about the rebellion of the Warsaw Ghetto.
Yanek said if they could do it, we could do it also. We need weapons. Yuz'ak tried to be more realistic. It is not Warsaw Ghetto here, we don't have the support they had. We must look for a way to save Jews and to stop dreaming.

06:09:50 We started to make contact with the gentile to hide Jewish people. We worked together with the other Youth Movements. The leaders who organized it could not save themselves. It was hard for Yuz'ak that he couldn't save us in this way.

06:12:40 Yuz'ak and me, Ruth and Yanek got married on the same day. On 5.15.1943 we went to marry at the Polish office,

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06:20:30 Meyren was described as a demon, was he like that?

 He was the bad boy of a nice family. I don't think he was demon. The demon story was born after the war. He was an ambitious man that was caught in special historic events. I think he believed that he saved us.

06:24:15 In May some people from the Jewish Militia came to arrest Yuz'ak, Bolek and me. I was released but they were not. We found out that Meyren was behind it. He wanted to be involved in the Paraguay papers. He didn't want to be in charge only for the dead; he wanted to be partner to save people.

06:32:58 We got a letter from Zelig: "Hipek was arrested". My father helped us to rescue him. Hipek was sent to the Carpets Mountains.

We tried to steal guns. The Germans caught Harry Blumenfrucht. He had a gun. They hanged him in the prison.

06:48:10 Yuz'ak asked me to go to Krakow and to meet Zelig. I came back and took 4 girls, among them: Zella and Malla. Zelig arranged for them the documents and they went to work in Germany as Polish. The next time I came, Zelig was not there. I went to a hotel. I met there a man that told me that he is an officer in the Polish army. The Germans killed his wife and children and he wants to take revenge.

06:59:00 In Krakow I saw on one of the gate a sign: Enlistment Office for volunteers to work in Germany. I went in. The officer told me that I am a Jew and he will call the police. I told him I want to talk to him privately.

 There I told him I'm from the Polish underground, and my mission was to save a Jewish girl whose father was an officer during the independence war of Poland. I asked to meet him in a restaurant in the evening and gave him a big amount of money.

 I went back to the hotel and met the same guy. He asked me what happened. He told me that they are informers, but he can help me. He knew a German lady who was in love with him. She worked for the working office in Tarnov. (Her name was Edith Varenkros). We both knew that we are Jews, but we didn't talk about it.

07:07:40 I was presented to Edith as a member of the Polish underground. She helped us to save some tens Jewish people.

07:10:30 Some of the people that got Paraguay papers were arrested, among them was Meyren. They were sent to Auschwitz in July 1943.

07:16:30 Kobe, Yatchka and Hipek were in the mountains. They saved some tens people from Sosnovitz and Baenjin. I continued to go to Krakow to send girls to Germany.

I got addresses in Krakow and bought guns. I always traveled in the first class in the train. I was young and pretty. I had a lot of money from the Judenrhat and from our parents. I was dressed as an elegant lady.

07:44:30 Draier, the head of the Jewish department in the Gestapo put Vovek Shmidana as the head of the Judenrhat. He cooperated with Yuz'ak.

07:51:10 In July 30, 1943, Hipek came back to take his girlfriend. In the night of 8.1.1943 was the big deportation. I went out and met a group of S.S. soldiers. Their officer, Payikart, said that I'm not a Jew and wanted to save me. I insist that I'm a Jew. We hid in a bunker with my parents and Yuz'ak's parents. In the evening we went out. Yuz'ak wanted to look for our friends. I begged him not to go. I waited for him near the window. At 2:00 A.M. I heard two shots. Later I found out that he was killed with Natek on their way to the Judenrhat. I found his body and brought him to the courtyard of the hospital.

08:04:24 My world ended with Yuz'ak's death. He had great influence on my development. I heard his voice: "you must go on". I cried only when I met Bolek in the Bunker. Ruth and Yanek were together, but not for very long. Yanek was killed a day after Yuz'ak.

08:08:10 The Germans needed more people for the next transport. They took: Lala, Ruth, Yanek, Hipek and his girlfriend. Hipek was the first one to run away. The Germans ran after him. He shot one German and then the Germans caught him. Ruth succeeded to escape, but the Germans killed Yanek.

08:18:50 I decided to put myself together. I was dressed up as a gentile and went to the place where Leon hid. It was at the Bozedai family. They had a villa out of the town. Leon and Bolek and then Karola helped to rescue many Jews to the mountains where Koba , Lolka and Samek were.

I went again to Krakow to arrange 20 girls to go to work in Austria. Edith couldn't come to Krakow. I had to come over to her to Tarnov. She waited for me on the train platform with two S.S. soldiers. She introduced me as her cousin. We went to a party with them and on our way to her home they gave me a gun as a present. Edith gave me all the documents and I took the train back. I didn't have enough money for the tickets for the girls from Tarnov to Vienna, so I decided I would buy tickets to Katovitz. Lolka was mad at me. She asked me to go back to buy the tickets. It was 8.25.1943, my birthday. I said I didn't want to go. Lolka went. She never came back. On 8.27. I went to buy the tickets for the 20 girls. We sent Karola with them.

08:33:00 I went again to Krakow. This time the Germans caught me on the train. I had a gun and a lot of money in my bag. I opened the bag and put the gun and the money under a cupboard. The officer asked for my name. I knew that Alitzia Vrseka (the name I had on my papers) is not a good name, so I told him: "Danuta Falinska" (who was a closed friend of mine in school). I said I had to go to work and I didn't want, so a friend of my father gave me the new papers. He said he had to give me to the Gestapo. I was put in a prison in Tchebinia. I wanted to tell my friends where I was. I wrote to Bozedai.

08:44:40 Two S.S. soldiers took me to Katovitz. I was interrogated and put in the prison. My cell was very small. I could do 2 steps to the width and 3-4 to the length. In the morning I got something to drink and a piece of bread. At noon - cooked peels of potatoes and carrots. One of the guards asked me if I know to do embroidery. I got the map for the Church. She took me to a bigger room with other 12 women prisoners.

The woman, who was in charge of our room, recognized me. She said she met me in the Tzofim (youth movement).

09:00:05 One day I saw Lolka. She told me she was arrested in Tchebinia, and admitted that she is Jewish. She thought they would send her back to the Ghetto. She told me she is very hungry and she has given-up. I managed to give her my bread, since at noon we got the left over from the kitchen. She went to Auschwitz.

09:05:10 One day I got my cloths back and I was taken to the Gestapo again. They wanted to know the name of the man that gave me my papers. I said I didn't know. They didn't suspect that I'm not Polish. The investigation continued for several times. The officer told me that I could be free if I'll find the man. I said I am patriot of my country, and I could not do it. Then Draier came into the room. He looked at me and said he knew me. I pretended that I don't know him. I was returned to the prison. I knew I was lost. I'm not going alive to Auschwitz. I stole a shaving knife. When I was called again to the Gestapo I cut my vein. I fainted. They put a bandage on my hand and took me to the Gestapo. Draier was there.

Tape 4 Of 5

09:21:45 I remember that I found a piece of newspaper. The date was 9.9.1943. I knew that is near Yom Kippur. I decided to fast for the memory of all the dead Jews.

I moved to another room in the prison, with three others women. I heard from the window a Hebrew song. It was Halinka Kutner. I knew that my friends got my letters.

09:25:00 Then I was moved to the prison in Meslovitz. It was huge room with many women. I was sick. I had arthritis and it was difficult to walk. One morning a man came to our room with a list of names to be sent to Auschwitz. My name was on the list. An officer said to put me in his car. On the way, the road split: one to Auschwitz, the other to Sesnovitz. He brought me back to the Ghetto. It was the secretary of the Gestapo in Katovitz. My friends "bought" him. His name was Poltin.

09:31:45 Dr. Liberman was in charge of the Ghetto now. He told me what had happened and that Ruth was on her way to the Ghetto. We both got a small room, which we used as a travel agency. People traveled to Katovitz in a tram, from there in a train to Zvadron (a city in the mountains) and from there they were smuggled to Slovakia.

09:36:10 Paikrat came to the Ghetto and asked to see me. He told me that if he knew that Yuz'ak is my husband he would not have killed him.

09:41:00 On one Saturday morning in December, Poltin came to the Ghetto to see me. He said he got a letter telling him that my friend and I were busy smuggling people. He had to give the letter to his superiors. Till Monday no one would take care of it. He said: This is the time you have to save yourself. I thanked him. We told Bozedai it was our turn. I begged Dr. Liberman to come with us, but he refused. We told the people in the ghetto about our contact with Bizedai, so they could continue to rescue themselves.

09:45:30 We went to Katovitz and from there to Zverdin where we met our smugglers. In the evening we met the Slovakian who took us to Ervin Stiener, the head of the Zionist Organization in Slovakia. We saw normal life: shops, food, and cloths.

10:04:30 We got a telegram from Leon: "come to Budapest. You have certificates to go to Palestine". We arrived to Budapest on 1.1.1944. We met Yatchka. She lived there with the biggest smuggler: Mr. Schwartz. We stayed at the Krakovitz Pension where we met Leon. He told us how the Germans caught Bolek and Chaim.

The Jews didn't believe our stories from the hell we had.

Ruth's parents arrived. I hoped that my father would come too. I knew my mother was in prison.

10:23:10 We didn't want to go to Palestine. It was a far dream, and here we had duty to do. Oleg called me and told me: "Fredka, you must go, I promise you I would take revenge.

On 2.27.1944 a group of 15 people from all the youth movements went out from Budapest, in the orient express train through Rumania, Bulgaria to Istanbul. My name was Kelemen Shendor Hedwok Vizinger. In kushta we met Menachem Bader and Akiva Levinsky. We continued in a train to Syria and to Beirut. From there in a taxi to Haifa.

In the hotel, I cried: "Why did I come? What do I have to do here"?

The day after I got my original name back. My cousin from Haifa ran towards me and called my mother's name. He thought I was she.

10:39:30 We arrived to Palestine on 3.6.1944. I didn't stop to tell our story. I begged everyone: do something. Bomb Auschwitz.

David Manela came to take me to Kibutz Tel-Yitzhak. I found myself in the kitchen. On 3.18.44 the Germans took over Hungary. I felt, as it was the end of my world.

Several days after we arrived to Palestine we gave a testimony in front some leaders of the Histadrut (Tzizling, Remez and Eliyahu Golomb). I had connections with the German department and the Naval Unit at the "Palmach".

10:47:30 I travel to E. Golomb, and told him he must send me back to Hungary. He called Galili, Sneh and Golda Meir. Golda said: NO! we cannot send someone who was saved back to the hell. Eliyahu told me about a group of parachutes. He thought to send me instead Chana Senesh. I wish he did, because in that case we both would have been saved.

10:50:00 We didn't think of the American Jews. The yishuv (Jews in Palestine) was busy with his own problems and didn't appreciate how big is the disaster in Europe. One man from the progressive party, asked me: "if it was so bad there, how come you look so good"? People didn't want to believe.

I remembered Moshe Sharret in a wheel chair in a conference of active people in the party. He said about the Jews in Europe: " There was dust of people, then our delegation came..." When we heard this we did a big riot and a mess.

10:54:00 Why I decided to tell my story?

For many years we had that stupid feeling of telling only one story of the Holocaust. We didn't tell about our disputes. The first shock was Renia Kukelka' book: "In wonder and underground". She wrote only about "Dror". She didn't mention us.

10:56:30 Israel Gutmann, in his Encyclopedia of the Holocaust had a lot of mistakes. It is about time that we will open our eyes and learn the truth.

11:00:50 People from "Hashomer Hatzayir" knew where to find us when they needed us during the war, but in their memoirs they didn't remember to write about us.

11:05:30 In the beginning of 1946 I went to Italy as a delegate from Palestine. I had to go as an officer of UNRWA. I went to Cairo and from

there to Malta and Italy. I worked at the refugee's camp. I met there some of our friends.

11:19:30 How do you live today with the memories of the war?
After the Independence war I felt myself as an Israeli. I had a small daughter, new life, and new friends. I didn't want to live the past, I decided I don't want to tell my story. It is not interesting enough, but I want to learn about the period. Dr. Dvoletzky opened class for Holocaust studies at Bar Ilan University.

11:24:00 In the sixties, I started to teach at a high school ("Blich") in Ramat-gan. I had a wonderful chemistry with my students.

The Tape stopped in the middle.